



# RETZER NATURE CENTER

WAUKESHA COUNTY PARKS & LAND USE  
S14 W28167 MADISON STREET  
WAUKESHA, WI 53188

Return Service Requested

Nature Center Hours:

Sunday-Saturday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information call (262) 896-8007

For Program Registration call (262) 548-7801

## YOUR SPRING NATURE CONNECTION PROGRAM GUIDE

March - May 2007

*At A Glance*

<b>March</b>	<b>Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training</b>	<b>April 4</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Retzer Camera Club</b>	<b>May 2</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Retzer Camera Club</b>
<b>March 3</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Aldo Leopold Weekend Program</b>	<b>April 6,13,20,27</b> <i>Fridays</i>	<b>Morning Bird Hikes</b>	<b>May 4,11,18,25</b> <i>Fridays</i>	<b>Morning Bird Hikes</b>
<b>March 3</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Twilight Delight</b>	<b>April 12</b> <i>Thursday</i>	<b>Scout Day</b> "Trail of Nature"	<b>May 5</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Migrant Bird Hike</b> at Nashotah Park
<b>March 7</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Retzer Camera Club</b>	<b>April 18</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Nature Sprouts</b> "Earth's Keepers"	<b>May 12</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>"Friends" Sponsored Bird &amp; Wildflower Hike</b> at Monches
<b>March 10</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Basket Making Workshop</b>	<b>April 22-28</b> <i>Sunday-Saturday</i>	<b>Earth Week Programs</b> (See Insert)	<b>May 12</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Retzer Spring Native Plant Sale</b>
<b>March 17</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>ID of Trees &amp; Shrubs in Leafless Condition</b>	<b>April 26</b> <i>Thursday</i>	<b>Preschool Nature Exploration</b>	<b>May 12</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Bird &amp; Wildflower Hike</b> Menomonee Park
<b>March 21</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Nature Sprouts</b> "When March Comes Marching In"	<b>April 26</b> <i>Thursday</i>	<b>Birds of Prey</b> with Barb Harvey	<b>May 16</b> <i>Wednesday</i>	<b>Nature Sprouts</b> "Blooms & Booms"
<b>March 31</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Retzer's Rangers</b>	<b>April 27</b> <i>Friday</i>	<b>Bedtime Stories</b>	<b>May 19</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Breeding Bird Hike</b> at Fox River Park
<b>April</b>	<b>Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training</b>	<b>May 19</b> <i>Saturday</i>	<b>Basket Making Workshop</b>

# MARCH

## **VOLUNTEER TEACHER NATURALIST TRAINING**

This apprenticeship program is for adults interested in volunteering to lead hikes for school groups that come to Retzer Nature Center. Topics will include: general interpretation of the Wisconsin landscape (especially the plants, animals, and ecology of Retzer Nature Center); environmental education activities (and equipment) used at Retzer; and strategies and tactics for outdoor teaching of school children. Training will include assisting with scheduled programs.

There is no registration deadline; we welcome new volunteers anytime of the year.

## **ALDO LEOPOLD WEEKEND PROGRAM**

### ***Adults and Older Children Interested in Leopold***

We will observe this yearly tradition in Wisconsin with a morning program of selections from Aldo Leopold's masterwork, A Sand County Almanac, from 9-11:30 a.m. In the afternoon, we will offer a return engagement of the dramatic first-person portrayal of Leopold (by actor Mike Irwin), in an original program titled Aldo Leopold—The Last Radio Show. This program, sponsored by the Wisconsin Humanities Council, offers material from Leopold's radio broadcasts, assorted magazine writings, and well known written works. This program will begin at 1 p.m., and will be followed by a discussion of Leopold's ideas and writings. Rounding out the afternoon will be an outdoor Leopold Land Exploration, to show how the ideas of Aldo Leopold are put into practice in land management and restorations at Retzer Nature Center.

DATE: Saturday, March 3  
TIME: 9:00-11:30 a.m. Readings from A Sand County Almanac  
1:00-4:00 p.m. Aldo Leopold—The Last Radio Show, discussion, Leopold Land Exploration  
FEE: FREE  
REGISTER BY: February 23

## **TWILIGHT DELIGHT**

### ***Adult/Family Program***

"Nature's Way." Tracks, Scats, and Pellets. Finding the "treasures" and clues that wild ones leave BEHIND can be even more fascinating than seeing the creatures themselves! Join fellow nature lovers for an evening of poking into pellets, tiptoeing through tracks, discovering scatology! A nighttime adventure on the Retzer trails will follow (weather permitting).

DATE: Saturday, March 3  
TIME: 7:00-9:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$5.00 per person, \$20.00 per family  
REGISTER BY: February 26

## **RETZER NATURE CENTER CAMERA CLUB**

The Camera Club meets monthly, with instructional programs, sharing/critique of members' photographs, discussion of equipment and technique, and opportunities for taking photographs at Retzer Nature Center and other nature areas.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Would you be interested in receiving this Program Guide via e-mail? If YES, please e-mail your name, postal address (to take you off the postal mailing list) and your e-mail address with PROGRAM GUIDE in the subject line to:  
mljablonski@waukeshacounty.gov



## **BASKET MAKING WORKSHOP**

### ***Adult Program***

"Plum Pretty Tote." Not just your ordinary tote, this is a beauty. The basket is started on a 3¼ x 11¼ inch rectangle base. It has an accent color of plum with matching plum leather handles that are custom dyed. The basket is 12 inches tall without the handles. Some of the techniques used include start/stop weaving, twining, feathering, and twill. This basket is appropriate for all weaving abilities. Bring the following supplies: an old towel, basket or pruning shears, several dozen wood clip clothespins, cloth tape measure, pan, non-Phillip's screw driver, pencil, jackknife, and spray bottle for water.

DATE: Saturday, March 10  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$45.00  
REGISTER BY: March 5

## **ID OF TREES & SHRUBS IN LEAFLESS CONDITION**

### ***Adult Program***

Explore the peaceful early spring woods of Minooka Park as you learn to identify common trees and shrubs. Focus on leafless twig identification!

DATE: Saturday, March 17  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$5.00, plus park entrance fee  
REGISTER BY: March 12

## **NATURE SPROUTS**

### ***Ages: 4-6***

"When March Comes Marching In." "The March wind roars like a lion in the sky, and makes us shiver as he passes by. When winds are soft, and the days are warm and clear, just like a gentle lamb, then spring is here." (Author unknown.) What's up with weather? Have you ever had "Thunder Cake"? What "If Frogs Made Weather"? Join us for stories, a craft, and a snack as we march into March!

Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Wednesday, March 21  
TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.  
FEE: \$3.00 per child  
REGISTER BY: Noon-Friday, March 16

## **RETZER'S RANGERS**

### ***Grades 1-6***

Retzer's Rangers is a year long nature club for kids that will venture through the world of wonders promoting enjoyment, learning and understanding of the nature around us. Every child will experience hands on exploration of diverse nature and science topics as he/she joins in with the staff of Retzer Nature Center for fun, games and project activities. The Rangers will explore topics dealing with Eco Gardening, Insects, Natural Disasters, Migration and Science. Come be a part of this exclusive club. Planning ahead, upcoming Ranger Saturdays will be: 6/16, 8/11, 10/13 and 12/8.

DATE: Saturday, March 31  
TIME: 9:00 a.m.-Noon  
TOPIC: "Ter-ra-ra-raium," Eco Gardening  
FEE: \$75.00 per child for the remainder of the year  
REGISTER BY: March 23

**For more program information log on to  
[www.waukeshacountyparks.com](http://www.waukeshacountyparks.com)**

# APRIL

*\*Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training\**  
***We welcome Volunteers anytime of the year!***  
(See March listing for description and details).

## **RETZER NATURE CENTER CAMERA CLUB**

The Camera Club meets monthly, with instructional programs, sharing/critique of members' photographs, discussion of equipment and technique, and opportunities for taking photographs at Retzer Nature Center and other nature areas.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m.

## **MORNING BIRD HIKES**

### ***Adults & Families with older children***

They're back! Our frisky, feathered friends are back! We'll explore their habitats, welcome back spring migrants, and check on our year round residents. Don't forget your binoculars. Binoculars are available at Retzer on a limited basis. (Also all Friday mornings in May & June.)

DATES: Fridays: April 6, 13, 20, and 27

TIME: 7:00-8:30 a.m.

FEE: \$1.00 per person

## **SCOUT DAY**

"Trail of Nature." (Round robin tour of requirements.) Trail of Nature is a customized program for Girl and Boy Scouts. It covers a wide range of scouting topics including: birds and flyways, plants and trees, poisonous plants and animals, endangered species, and animal tracks and signs identification. We'll play the Web of Life game to discover how energy flows through an ecosystem and maintains healthy habitats. This program is intended for scouts and their leaders.

DATE: Thursday, April 12

TIME: 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-3:00 p.m.

FEE: \$8.00 per scout

REGISTER BY: April 6

## **NATURE SPROUTS**

### ***Ages: 4-6***

"Earth's Keepers." Join us as we celebrate Earth Day! "Earth Day Birthday," written by Pattie Schetzler, is the perfect story for the occasion. "The Family of Earth" is a beautiful story of the many worlds that make up our gentle blue giant, planet earth. We'll celebrate with these stories, a craft, and Earth Day Birthday Cake! Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Wednesday, April 18

TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.

FEE: \$3.00 per child

REGISTER BY: Noon-Friday, April 13

## **EARTH WEEK PROGRAMS, April 22-28**

See insert for all programs and times.

## **PRESCHOOL NATURE EXPLORATION**

### ***Ages: 4-6***

A nature experience awaits children on a Retzer hike. Come and explore the sensory wonders of the outdoors while observing and comparing spring insects, flowers and other treasures. Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Thursday, April 26

TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.

FEE: Free Earth Week Program

REGISTER BY: April 20

## **BIRDS OF PREY!**

### ***Adults and older children***

Join Wildlife rehabilitator **Barb Harvey** for her program **Earth Day, Everyday—Birds of Prey**, featuring live **hawks** and/or **owls**. Barb is an expert in the care and healing of injured birds of prey. Her goal is to release them, healthy and whole, back to the wild. She features special hawks and owls, which cannot be released, to show the wonders of these marvelous birds. Call the Center to register.

DATE: Thursday, April 26

TIME: 7:00-8:30 p.m.

FEE: Free Earth Week Program

REGISTER BY: April 23

## **BEDTIME STORIES**

### ***Family Program***

Put on your jammies, bring along your favorite stuffed animal and get ready to snuggle down for bedtime stories. Our bedtime stories include "Sunset Switch" and "The Family of Earth." You might even win a prize for the Most Wild PJ's! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Friday, April 27

TIME: 7:00-8:00 p.m.

FEE: Free Earth Week Program

REGISTER BY: April 23

## **REMINDER**

### **Friends Annual Meeting**

**Monday, April 30, 2007**

**Chili Supper ♦ Meeting ♦ Speaker**

# MAY

*\*Volunteer Teacher Naturalist Training\**  
***We welcome Volunteers anytime of the year!***  
(See March listing for description and details).

## **RETZER NATURE CENTER CAMERA CLUB**

The Camera Club meets monthly, with instructional programs, sharing/critique of members' photographs, discussion of equipment and technique, and opportunities for taking photographs at Retzer Nature Center and other nature areas.

DATE/TIME: Wednesday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

## **MORNING BIRD HIKES**

### ***Adults & Families with older children***

They're back! Our frisky, feathered friends are back! We'll explore their habitats, welcome back spring migrants, and check on our year round residents. Don't forget your binoculars. Binoculars are available at Retzer on a limited basis.

DATES: Fridays: May 4, 11, 18, and 25

TIME: 7:00-8:30 a.m.

FEE: \$1.00 per person

## **MIGRANT BIRD HIKE**

### ***Adult Program***

Come to Nashotah Park for an adventure with the birds as they return. Join Naturalist Larry Kascht at daybreak, for a fascinating look at the migrant birds passing through one of our finest natural areas. Bring a field guide and binoculars.

DATE: Saturday, May 5

TIME: 7:00-10:00 a.m.

PLACE: Noshotah County Park – meet at Picnic Area 2

FEE: \$4.00, plus park entrance fee

REGISTER BY: April 30

### **"FRIENDS" SPRING BIRD & WILDFLOWER HIKE**

Monches Park should be full of migrating and resident birds in full voice and bright spring plumage, and the wildflowers should also be near their peak. Due to limited parking at Monches, we will carpool, meeting at Richmond School at 7:00 a.m. The hike will be conducted by Larry Kascht, Retzer Nature Center Naturalist, and will last approximately 3 hours, so we should get back to Richmond School by 11:00 a.m. Please call the Retzer Nature Center to register. Inclement weather never stops bird hikes.

DATE: Saturday, May 12

TIME: 7:00-11:00 a.m.

FEE: Free to *Friends of Retzer Nature Center* Members. Membership opportunities available.

REGISTER BY: May 7

### **SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE**

Come out to Retzer to see and purchase our potted native grasses and wildflowers! We will have prairie species such as Shooting Star and Prairie Dropseed (which are difficult to start from seed), along with many others. We will also have a number of choice woodland wildflowers including Trillium and Virginia Waterleaf. These plants come from our native wildflower nurseries, all brought together just for you. Bring along your questions, and plant samples for identification by the "Plant Doctor." Sales Manager: Dick Bautz.

DATE: Saturday, May 12

TIME: 9:00 a.m.-Noon

### **BIRD AND WILDFLOWER HIKE**

#### ***Adults and families with older children***

Menomonee Park woods comes alive with warblers and wildflowers in springtime. Join Naturalist, Larry Kascht, on Saturday afternoon for a walk. We will identify, smell, photograph, and appreciate the flowers, and learn about their life and ecology. We will identify as many of the warblers as we can, let ourselves be awed by their incredible beauty, and learn about their migration. Bring your field guide, camera, and binoculars!

DATE/TIME: Saturday, May 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Menomonee Park – Beach house parking lot.

FEE: \$4.00, plus park entrance fee

REGISTER BY: May 8

### **NATURE SPROUTS**

#### ***Ages: 4-6***

"Blooms and Booms." What do blooms and booms have in common? Flowers! What does the letter "A" have in common with a flower? They both have bees coming after them! Let's "Discover the Seasons," "The Reason for a Flower" and other surprises of spring! Join us for stories, a craft, and snack. Participants must be accompanied by an adult.

DATE: Wednesday, May 16

TIME: 10:00-11:00 a.m. or 1:00-2:00 p.m.

FEE: \$3.00 per child

REGISTER BY: Noon-Friday, May 11

### **BREEDING BIRD HIKE**

#### ***Adult Program***

Come to Fox River Park for a fascinating look at the resident birds of early summer, as they nest, lay eggs and raise their young. We will explore their ways of life and ecology as summer unfolds in one of our most magnificent nature areas.

DATE: Saturday, May 19

TIME: 7:00-10:00 a.m.

FEE: \$4.00, plus park entrance fee

REGISTER BY: May 14

### **BASKET MAKING WORKSHOP**

#### ***Adult Program***

"Strawberries in Blossom." Let's get ready for berry picking. This basket is as cute as can be and includes one of Marcia's hand painted ash strips. The painting has fresh strawberries and berries in blossom. The basket is 12 inches wide by 10 inches tall, and 4 inches deep. The starting technique uses a traditional market basket base and it includes start/stop weaving, twining, and a braided border, which is of course accented in berry red. This is a multi level basket. Bring the following supplies: an old towel, basket or pruning shears, several dozen wood clip clothespins, cloth tape measure, pan, non-Phillip's screw driver, pencil, jackknife, and spray bottle for water.

DATE: Saturday, May 19

TIME: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FEE: \$36.00

REGISTER BY: May 14

### **March - May 2007 Retzer Nature Center Programs**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Fee Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Retzer Nature Center -  
Master Card and Visa accepted.

Please enroll me in the following class(s):

Child's Name	Workshop	Date	Birth Date
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Child's Name	Workshop	Date	Birth Date
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Child's Name	Workshop	Date	Birth Date
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Child's Name	Workshop	Date	Birth Date
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Mail form and fee(s) to:

Retzer Nature Center Programs  
Attn: Ronda  
1320 Pewaukee Road, Room 230  
Waukesha, WI 53188  
(262) 548-7801

Questions:

Some workshops fill up quickly, please call to verify openings.